

# From the Ground Up: Montana Women in Agriculture



## INTERVIEW EXCERPTS

Arlene Pile, 78  
Sweet Grass County Rancher

### ON THE RULES OF CONSERVATION:

“Turn the water off when you’re brushing your teeth. That little bit adds up. When you see a weed when you’re out walking around, pick it and throw it away. If you pick one a day, that adds up.”

### ON BEING A RANCHER:

“Ranching, well, that’s just who I am. I know nothing else. I’ve been a ranch woman my whole life, so I’ve also been a mechanic, a truck driver; I’ve been a cowboy and a veterinarian; it’s all tied to the ranch activities.”

### ON HER FONDEST MEMORIES:

“We had a lot of fond memories on the ranch. But I guess the sweetest thing I remember that I dearly love, and I still see it now ... in the summertime, in the early morning, when the dew is heavy on the grass and the grass heads are full of seed; the sun comes up and it shines across the top of that grass, there will be a little puff of pollen that comes off the top of the grass. That’s just a beautiful moment.”